

Members

Rep. Cleo Duncan, Chairperson
Rep. Eric Gutwein
Rep. Linda Lawson
Rep. Dan Stevenson
Sen. Ron Alting
Sen. Robert Jackman
Sen. Rose Antich-Carr
Sen. Allie Craycraft



RAIL CORRIDOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 3, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 156 C
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Rep. Cleo Duncan, Chairperson; Rep. Eric Gutwein; Rep. Linda Lawson; Rep. Dan Stevenson; Sen. Ron Alting; Sen. Robert Jackman; Sen. Rose Antich-Carr; Sen. Allie Craycraft.

Members Absent: None.

The Chair, Representative Cleo Duncan, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She referred to the Committee's first meeting where the State Police presented a film on rail grade crossing safety. Representative Duncan asked the Committee to consider the following recommendations be drafted as a resolution:

- (1) Encourage each State Police post to acquire and keep a copy of the film on rail grade crossing safety.
- (2) Encourage each driver's education class to show the film on rail grade crossing safety.
- (3) Raise the penalty (fine) for rail grade crossing violations.

The Committee discussed raising the penalty (fine) for rail grade crossing violations and determined it to be an enforcement issue and not a price issue.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Mr. Tom Beck, INDOT, told the Committee that the Rail Grade Crossing Passive Safety Fund could be used for: (1) brush clearing; (2) warning signs; (3) non-mechanical items; and (3) median barriers. In response to Committee questions about the apparent under-use of the Fund, Mr. Beck told the Committee some of the reasons include the following: (1) there is lack of publicity about the Fund; and (2) the awareness of the Fund's existence is low.

Mr. Beck told the Committee that the railroads are responsible for crossbucks at rail grade crossings. Mr. Ryan Hoff, INDOT, told the Committee that INDOT has spent \$10 M - \$15 M so far this year on motorized gates at rail crossings across the state.

The Chair announced that the issues of the Automated Horn System (AHS) and the Maintenance of Way camps will not be addressed as recommendations from the Committee.

The following two recommendations were moved, seconded, and taken by consent:

(1) Encourage each State Police post to acquire and keep a copy of the film on rail grade crossing safety.

(2) Encourage each driver's education class to show the film on rail grade crossing safety.

The draft copy of the Final Report, with the above recommendations, was approved by consent.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Correction of Minutes for September 13, 2005, Meeting:

Mr. Ryan Hoff and Mr. Tom Beck, both of INDOT, commented via email to the staff, that there were two errors in the minutes of the second meeting. They requested the following corrections.

The minutes of the September 13, 2005, meeting read as follows: "Mr. Hoff said that the new bill provides Indiana with an additional \$4.4 B over the next five years." Correction: "Mr. Hoff said that the new bill provides Indiana with \$4.4 B over the next five years."

The minutes of the September 13, 2005, meeting read as follows: " Mr. Beck commented that Indiana spends between \$5 M and \$10 M annually on rail grade crossing safety." Correction: "Mr. Beck commented that Indiana spends between \$10 M and \$15 M annually on rail grade crossing safety."